

## A Study of the Book of Philippians

**Theme:**

**“OUR PARTNERSHIP  
IN THE GOSPEL!”**

Trinity Lutheran Church Norman, OK.

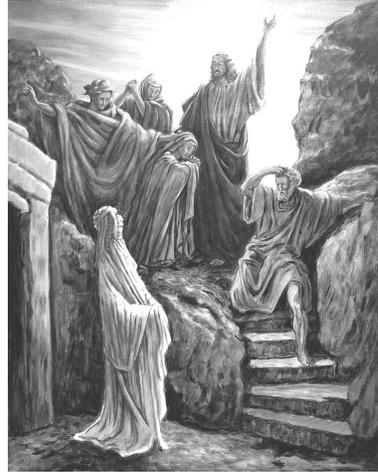
Pastor David R. Nehrenz

**Lesson: 26**

**Chapter 3:21**

**Date: 3-15-20**

**BIBLE TEXT:**



(1) Finally, my brothers, rejoice in **the Lord**. To write the same things to you is no trouble to me and is safe for you. (2) Look out for the dogs, look out for the evildoers, look out for those who mutilate the flesh. (3) For we are the real circumcision, who worship by the **Spirit of God** and glory in **Christ Jesus** and put no confidence in the flesh—

(4) though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: (5) circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; (6) as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness, under the law blameless.

(7) But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of **Christ**. (8) Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing **Christ Jesus my Lord**. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain **Christ**

(9) and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in **Christ**, the righteousness from **God** that depends on faith-- (10) that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,

(11) that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. (12) Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because **Christ Jesus** has made me his own. (13) Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead,

(14) I press on toward the goal for the prize of **the upward call of God in Christ Jesus**.

(15) Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, **God** will reveal that also to you. (16) Only let us hold true to what we have attained. (17) Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us.

(18) For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of **the cross of Christ**. (19) Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things.

(20) But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a **Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ**,

(21) who will transform our lowly body to be like **his glorious body**, by the power that enables **him** even to subject all things to **himself**.

## **STUDY NOTES:**

*Those who are mature in the faith*

**(1 Cor 2:6; 3:1-3; Gal 5:10; Eph 1:17; 1 Th 4:9; Heb 5:14)**

*Imitate the examples of other Christians as models for your own life*

**(1 Cor 4:16; 1 Tim 4:12; 1 Thess 3:7-9; Heb 13:7; 3 Jn 1:11)**

*There are those who live as enemies of the cross of Christ*

**(Mt 10:34-39; Lk 19:41-44; Ac 20:31; Gal 6:12)**

*Their destiny is destruction, their glory is their shame, their mind is on earthly things*

**(Ps 73:17; Rom 6:21; 8:5,6; 16:18; Col 3:2; Jude 13)**

*But our citizenship is in heaven – we await a Savior from there – our Lord Jesus Christ*

**(Jn 17:14-16; Rom 8:19; 1 Cor 1:7; 7:29-31; Eph 2:6; Col 3:1-4;  
2 Tim 4:8; 1 Th 1:9-10; 1 Pet 2:11)**

His power by which he brings everything under his control,  
will transform our lowly bodies to be like his glorious body

**(Mt 28:16-20; Rom 8:10-39; 1 Cor 6:14; 15:1-58; Eph 1:16-23; 1 Jn 3:1-3)**

## **LIFE APPLICATION:**

Discuss the implications, each day, knowing that our bodies will be transformed to be like his glorious body?

## **LUTHER'S WORKS: Vol. 28, Page 181 – Our transformed resurrected bodies**

“Should **God** not produce far more with His grain? For **He** who creates all things and us human beings in addition is a **Husbandman** different from you. And since **He** once before created us from nothing, **He** can also again give us life from the grave and give the body a new form. For it surely denotes greater skill to make something out of nothing than to renew and to beautify what existed previously.

You see, in this way Paul wants to refute the crude, carnal meaning which they inject into this article with the intention of weakening it. **His meaning and conclusion are that man's body will be transformed.** It will not retain the form it now has. Man will retain only what pertains to his essence, but nothing will remain that relates to this transitory life.

And yet it will be the same body and soul with all the members that man had here. But he will have to leave behind all that he required in this world: husband, wife, child, house, home, masters, manservant, maidservant, meat and drink, clothing, etc. These man will need until we have all departed this life, one after another, until this life has ceased and vanished completely and another, more beautiful life dawns, which is to endure eternally.

Therefore it is not at all a question whether everybody will live a life or occupy positions in the resurrection as he does now, or how everybody will procure food, drink, clothing, etc.; for **God** wants to create a new life for the very purpose that all that is perishable be entirely abolished. Death must serve that purpose. **He** must approach us and say: “Stop eating, drinking, digesting, etc., and lie down and decompose so that you may acquire a new, more beautiful form, just as the grain does which sprouts anew from the soil.”